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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE TOWN OF
BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

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1955

ANNUAL REPORT

===== OF THE =====

TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

DONALD H. SCOTT
MAYOR

First Ward
JOSEPH V. RUSSOMAN
ARTHUR L. SCHMIDT

Second Ward
JOSEPH D. LINTOTT
HENRY A. MERKEL

Third Ward
WALTER STEINMANN, JR.
GEORGE B. WELLE

1955

**THE
ANNUAL MESSAGE
OF
MAYOR DONALD H. SCOTT
TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD, N. J.**

JANUARY 2, 1956

As we begin a new year and reflect upon the year just past, it is indeed a pleasure to be able to report to our citizens that 1955 was a year of progress and accomplishment in our Town. Longfellow has written: "We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing; others judge us by what we have done."

GARDEN STATE PARKWAY

Early in the year, the Garden State Parkway was opened to Bloomfield traffic and in connection therewith, the Parkway parallel roads were completed and traffic lights installed thereon at the inter-sections where it was considered necessary for safety.

The Highway Authority fulfilled our request for the construction of a pedestrian bridge at Pilch Street, which is now fully completed and in use. Also, at our request, they have completed fences along all areas of the Parkway where it was deemed advisable to have fencing for safety reasons. There still remains some permanent fencing to be completed on bridges.

MORRIS CANAL HIGHWAY

The Morris Canal Highway has been completed from Belleville Avenue to Hoover Avenue. This section is now in use and has proved to be a very worthwhile facility. There remains to be completed the extension of this Highway along the Canal and East Passaic Avenue from Hoover Avenue to Center Street. It is expected that this final portion will be completed during the year 1956. In conjunction with the development of this new facility, new and modern bridges have been constructed at James Street and at Baldwin Street

CIVIL DEFENSE

Good progress has been made in the Civil Defense program. Through the energetic drive of our Civil Defense Council, our recruiting program has increased membership to 439 volunteers who have contributed almost 11,000 man hours in various areas of defense activity and non-defense civic activity during the past year.

WATER

We have completed negotiations with the City of Newark for a new contract for the exchange and pumping of water and for the provision of additional water over and above that which is Bloomfield owned. We are continuing to explore the possibility of participating in an additional water supply.

FINANCE

Tax collections during 1955 reached the high rate of 97.40%. Our financial picture continues to be healthy.

HEALTH

In our Health Department, there has been instituted a new program to X-Ray all food-handlers and, after considerable planning, arrangements have been made with the Essex County T. B. League for use by the Bloomfield Board of Health of a General Electric X-Ray unit on a long-term loan basis. As a result of the availability of this equipment, a continuing program of chest X-Raying in the Municipal Building will be offered to our citizens, starting in early 1956.

With the close cooperation of the Board of Education and its medical staff, along with the medical staff of parochial schools, the Health Department administered the Salk vaccine supplied by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to first and second grade pupils.

LIBRARY

During 1955, an architect was engaged for planning a rehabilitation and modernization program for our library building. This program provides, as well, for expansion of facilities to allow greater use by young people. The work on this program should start early this year.

CIVIC CENTER

After a study and recommendations made by a citizens' committee, the Town Council has recently engaged an archi-

tect to draw plans for the new Civic Center and it is expected that we shall go into construction of this new facility during the year of 1956.

RECREATION

We have continued to make progress in our recreation program and I should like to point out that during the past year the program has improved and expanded. Three new Field Houses were constructed at Millbank Playground, Floyd Field and Vassar Field. Through cooperation of the Recreation Commission and the Board of Education, the school plant and playground facilities are being used to the fullest extent for recreation purposes.

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

With respect to the very important business of educating our children, we have made a beginning on the implementation of the recommendations made in the school plant survey, entitled "School Plant Needs of Bloomfield, New Jersey," which was made by the Institute of Field Studies of Columbia University. There has been established a time-table for the program of rehabilitation, school additions and the new elementary and Junior High School plants. Some work has been done on the first phase of the rehabilitation program, plans have been started for the second phase of the rehabilitation program and work has begun on plans for a new school in the Forest Hill Manor section.

Concerning the school curriculum, it is interesting to note that the new program of introducing foreign languages in the elementary schools is gradually expanding and I feel it should be encouraged. It is encouraging to note, in these times of much concern regarding reading habits of children, that recent reading tests show our Junior High School pupils to be above national standards. It is a matter of much satisfaction to learn that foreign educators who had an opportunity to study our school system have classed the Bloomfield school system with the best they had seen during their six months tour through the United States.

REAPPORTIONMENT OF WARDS

Early in 1955, there was accomplished a re-apportionment of our Wards. This re-apportionment was made by a bi-partisan ward commission, in accordance with State Law. The change eliminates the condition where one of our wards has a greater population than the other two wards combined and provides equal representation in all wards on the basis of population.

PLANNING AND ZONING

In the later months of 1955, there was passed by the Governing Body, an Ordinance which I consider to be one of the most important pieces of Legislation to be passed in the Town of Bloomfield for many years. This Ordinance provides for the re-zoning of several large vacant areas into two new zones. The "AA" small volume residential zone provides for a lesser density of residences.

RESEARCH OFFICE PARK ZONE

The "Research Office Park" zone is best described in the words of this recently adopted Ordinance and I quote in part from the Ordinance: . . . "There have developed certain new types of land use that can economically benefit the entire community, can be related harmoniously to residential development and can be provided for by special planning and zoning procedures and standards; said uses of land are principally of an office or research laboratory type characterized by the similarity to a college campus or park-like atmosphere of landscaped lawns and low percentage of lot coverage . . . " The latter use is a modern day concept in planning and has important esthetic and economic advantages.

The Town Council and the Planning Board has been considering for some time the possibility of taking advantage of this modern concept in planning. It was the desire of the Colgate-Palmolive Company to locate their research center in Bloomfield which increased the tempo of our consideration with respect to fitting such a use into our comprehensive zoning scheme.

This new zoning revision will be helpful in maintaining the economic balance of our community, which we have sought to maintain over the years. In recent years up until this time and except for this zoning revision, the rapid growth of new residences would have served to offset our planned and desirable balance.

COLGATE RESEARCH CENTER

In the first of these research-office-park zones, that which is now known as the Broadacres Golf Course, the Colgate Company is planning and expect to construct a modern and attractive research center, which it is anticipated will cost several million dollars. We, in Bloomfield, are fortunate that this company of world-wide repute has decided to become one of our neighbors, and I am certain that they will make a valuable contribution to our community in many ways. I consider that the decision of the Colgate-Palmolive

Company to locate this modern facility in our community is complementary to Bloomfield and gives evidence of confidence in our community's future. I take this opportunity to further welcome them as a new potential neighbor and trust that their Bloomfield Research Center will become an actuality in the not-too-distant future.

My commendations go to the Council and Planning Board for their intelligent consideration of this new zoning which will be of lasting benefit to our Community.

I consider, too, that our citizens are to be commended for the manner in which they accepted this new concept of planning after they were apprised of the facts as fully and completely as we could relate the facts to them.

CHARTER MODIFICATION

During the past year, the Charter Commissioners who had been elected in November of 1954, completed their study of our Town's government. This Commission recommended that we maintain our basic form of government with three major modifications as follows: (1) the creation of the position of administrator; (2) the extension of the terms of the elected officials from two to three years; and (3) the combination of three at-large councilmen and three ward councilmen, one from each of the three wards.

The key to the findings and recommendations of the Charter Commissioners is found in the concluding words of their report: " . . . should make a good government a better one."

Their recommendations required a special act of legislature to amend the existing Charter. This special act was passed by the State legislature. The question was submitted to the Bloomfield voters on November 8th of this past year, and the voters approved the modifications by a substantial margin.

Your governing body has engaged a consultant on municipal government administration to draft the administrative code to implement the mandate of the voters. It is expected that early in 1956 the administrative code will be adopted and there will be engaged a person to fill the position of administrator. Meanwhile, it will be necessary to operate within the frame-work of a temporary organizational set-up while we proceed with cautious expedition to implement properly and completely the modifications to our charter.

I consider that the recommendations of the Charter Commissioners, as approved by the voters, will be helpful

in providing proper organization for our municipal administration which necessarily has grown large with our community.

* * * *

On behalf of all of our citizens, I should like to express gratitude for the contribution of time, talent and energy which is being made by so many of our citizens who voluntarily serve on our various boards, commissions and committees.

I should like to express my appreciation to the representatives of the various newspapers who cover the news of our municipal administration. In the past year, many important projects were developed in our community and without the proper dissemination of information to our citizens by the newspapers, many of these projects would have been more difficult of accomplishment. I commend these newspaper representatives for a fine reportorial job.

I should like to thank the members of the governing body and all of the officials and staff of our municipal government for their fine cooperation during the past year, for without this cooperation we would not be able to report as much progress today.

It is my prayerful hope that the coming year shall continue to be a peaceful one, that through industrious application and intelligent cooperation, we, who are responsible for the affairs of our community may, with the help of God, continue to make progress for the welfare of our citizens.

Heaven is not reached at a single bound:
But we build the ladder by which we rise
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies,
And we mount to its summit round by round.

—Josiah Gilbert Holland.

May I wish to all a new year full of God's rich blessings.

DONALD H. SCOTT, Mayor
Town of Bloomfield, N. J.
January 2, 1956

DHS:DMC

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET CURRENT ACCOUNT

ASSETS	Balance Dec. 31, 1955	Balance Dec. 31, 1954	Increase or Decrease *
Cash — Treasurer	\$ 1,206,542.96	\$ 1,304,125.56	\$ 97,582.60*
State Road Aid Allotments Receivables	86,475.02	80,570.95	5,904.07
Investments	613,767.00	415,000.00	198,767.00
	1,906,784.98	1,799,696.51	107,088.47
Receivables with Offsetting Reserves:			
Cash—Collector's Change Fund	600.00	400.00	200.00
Petty Cash—Board of Health	100.00	100.00	
Taxes Receivable	550,595.04	533,276.91	17,318.13
Tax Title Liens	21,405.25	17,548.09	3,857.16
Property Acquired by Tax Title Liquidation	58,400.00	58,400.00	
Revenue Accounts Receivable	6,638.32	6,913.89	275.57*
	637,738.61	616,638.89	21,099.72
Deferred Charges:			
Emergency Authorizations	42,972.80	3,150.00	39,822.80
Expenditure Without Reserve		297.00	297.00*
	42,972.80	3,447.00	39,525.80
	\$ 2,587,496.39	\$ 2,419,782.40	\$ 167,713.99

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET—Continued

CURRENT ACCOUNT—Continued

LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

	Balance Dec. 31, 1955	Balance Dec. 31, 1954	Increase or Decrease *
Liabilities:			
Appropriation Reserves	\$ 152,045.17	\$ 241,320.89	\$ 89,275.72*
Accounts Payable	5,806.54	598.13	5,208.41
Contracts Payable	1,471.40	1,471.40	
Deposits on Sale of Real Estate	200.00	200.00	
Prepaid Taxes Cash Liability	1,119.86	2,543.81	1,423.95*
Prepaid Licenses	1,643.00	1,785.00	142.00*
Unallocated Cash	275.84	219.15	56.69
Tax Overpayments	7,519.41	7,406.84	112.57
Reserve for Road Construction or Reconstruction with State Aid	107,871.38	94,669.97	13,201.41
Insurance Claims	103.93	103.93	
Allocated Funds Fire Maintenance Building	824.00	824.00	
Due State of New Jersey Hotel Licenses	25.00		25.00
Due Capital Account	1,800.00		1,800.00
	<u>280,705.53</u>	<u>351,143.12</u>	<u>70,437.59*</u>
Reserve for Investments		415,000.00	415,000.00*
Reserve for Receivables	637,738.61	616,638.89	21,099.72
Surplus Revenue	1,669,052.25	1,037,000.39	632,051.86
	<u>2,306,790.86</u>	<u>2,068,639.28</u>	<u>238,151.58</u>
	<u>\$ 2,587,496.39</u>	<u>\$ 2,419,782.40</u>	<u>\$ 167,713.99</u>

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET

TRUST ACCOUNT

	ASSETS	Balance Dec. 31, 1955	Balance Dec. 31, 1954	Increase or Decrease *
Assessment Account:				
Cash		\$ 58,253.97	\$ 35,269.91	\$ 22,984.06
Assessments Receivable		30,797.32	89,826.27	59,028.95*
Assessment Liens		2,729.54	2,806.03	76.49*
Assessment Liens Interest and Costs		1,278.48	24.81	1,253.67
		<u>93,059.31</u>	<u>127,927.02</u>	<u>34,867.71*</u>
Dog License Fund:				
Cash		4,956.66	5,669.03	712.37*
Special Trust Account		300.00	8,300.00	8,000.00*
		<u>\$ 98,315.97</u>	<u>\$ 141,896.05</u>	<u>\$ 43,580.08*</u>

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET—Continued

TRUST ACCOUNT—Continued

LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS		Balance Dec. 31, 1955	Balance Dec. 31, 1954	Increase or Decrease *
Assessment Account				
Bond Anticipation Notes			\$ 55,108.94	\$ 55,108.94*
Due Capital Account			22,770.66	22,770.66*
Due Water Operating Account			132.26	132.26*
Reserve for Assessments Receivable	\$ 30,797.32	45,019.02	14,221.70*	
Reserve for Assessment Liens	2,729.54	2,806.03	76.49*	
Reserve for Assessment Lien—Interest and Costs	1,278.48	24.81	1,253.67	
Trust Surplus	58,253.97	2,065.30	56,188.67	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		93,059.31	127,927.02	34,867.71*
Dog License Fund:				
Reserve for Dog Fund Expenditures	4,956.66	5,669.03	712.37*	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
Reserve for Special Trust Fund	300.00	8,300.00	8,000.00*	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
	\$ 98,315.97	\$ 141,896.05	\$ 43,580.08*	

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

ASSETS		Balance Dec. 31, 1955	Balance Dec. 31, 1954	Increase or Decrease *
General Capital:				
Cash	\$ 95,887.51	\$ 153,029.15	\$ 57,141.64*	
Accounts Receivable State of New Jersey	1,038.29	1,038.29		
Deferred Charges to Future Taxation—Bonded	3,668,000.00	3,941,000.00	273,000.00*	
Not Bonded	1,901,393.02	808,605.43	1,092,787.59	
Due from Trust Account		22,770.66	22,770.66*	
Due from Current Account			1,800.00	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		5,668,118.82	4,926,443.53	741,675.29
Emergency Housing Capital:				
Cash	12,841.82	12,841.82		
Fixed Capital	109,370.55	109,370.55		
Fixed Capital Authorization and Uncomputed	12,841.82	12,841.82		
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		135,054.19	135,054.19	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
	\$ 5,803,173.01	\$ 5,061,497.72	\$ 741,675.29	

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET—Continued

CAPITAL ACCOUNT—Continued

LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

	Balance Dec. 31, 1955	Balance Dec. 31, 1954	Increase or Decrease *
General Capital:			
Serial Bonds — School	\$ 2,350,000.00	\$ 2,521,000.00	\$ 171,000.00*
Serial Bonds — General	1,318,000.00	1,420,000.00	102,000.00*
Bond Anticipation Notes	400,000.00	450,000.00	50,000.00*
School Promissory Notes	280,000.00		280,000.00
Improvement Authorizations—Permanently Funded	27,108.79	24,611.92	2,496.87
Not Permanently Funded	1,259,104.09	384,863.39	874,240.70
Capital Improvement Fund	28,753.28	58,434.95	29,681.67*
Account Payable	110.14	110.14	
Retained Percentage on Contracts	2,220.80	5,109.57	2,888.77*
Reserve for Accounts Receivable	1,038.29	1,038.29	
Capital Surplus	1,783.43	61,275.27	59,491.84*
	<u>\$ 5,668,118.82</u>	<u>\$ 4,926,443.53</u>	<u>\$ 741,675.29</u>

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET

WATER UTILITY ACCOUNT

ASSETS

	Balance Dec. 31, 1955	Balance Dec. 31, 1954	Increase or Decrease *
Operating Section:			
Cash	\$ 334,293.65	\$ 429,040.20	\$94,746.55*
Cash—Water Clerk's Change Fund	200.00	200.00	
Investments	298,767.00	100,000.00	198,767.00
Consumers' Accounts Receivable	48,929.59	46,759.68	2,169.91
Water Assessments Receivable	142.64	142.64	
Water Assessment Liens	108.22	108.22	
Accounts Receivable—Fire Hydrant Damage	310.71	310.71	
Accounts Receivable—House Service Connection	792.90	1,344.70	551.80*
Inventory	40,324.42	48,847.34	8,522.92*
Water Rents Receivable—Veterans' Housing	33.00	33.00	
Due from Trust Account		132.26	132.26*
Due from Payroll Account		2.00	2.00*
	<u>723,902.13</u>	<u>626,920.75</u>	<u>96,981.38</u>
Capital Section:			
Cash	151,177.55	121,239.25	29,938.30
Fixed Capital	2,344,285.28	2,344,285.28	
Fixed Capital Authorized and Uncompleted	358,270.00	293,950.00	64,320.00
	<u>2,853,732.83</u>	<u>2,759,474.53</u>	<u>94,258.30</u>
	<u>\$ 3,577,634.96</u>	<u>\$ 3,386,395.28</u>	<u>\$ 191,239.68</u>

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET—Continued

WATER UTILITY ACCOUNT—Continued

LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS		Balance	Balance	Increase or
Operating Section		Dec. 31, 1955	Dec. 31, 1954	Decrease *
Accounts Payable	\$	90,924.33	\$ 61,483.04	\$ 29,441.29
Accrued Interest on Bonds		1,028.85	1,090.83	61.98*
Inventory Revolving Fund		44,749.58	44,749.58	
Unallocated Receipts—Water Clerk		43.64	39.64	4.00
Meter Deposits		1,100.00	900.00	200.00
Water Account Deposits		140.00	140.00	
House Connection Deposits		3,361.70	3,361.70	
Reserve for Consumers' Accounts Receivable		48,929.59	46,759.68	2,169.91
Reserve for Water Assessments Receivable		142.64	142.64	
Reserve for Water Assessment Liens		108.22	108.22	
Reserve for Accounts Receivable—Fire Hydrant Damages		310.71	310.71	
Reserve for Accounts Receivable—House Service Connections		792.90	1,344.70	551.80*
Reserve for Change Fund—Water Clerk		200.00	200.00	
Reserve for Inventory		40,324.42	48,847.34	8,522.92*
Reserve for Unpaid Water Rents		66.81	61.98	4.83
Reserve for Due from Trust Account			132.26	132.26*
Reserve for Water Rents Receivable—Veterans' Housing		33.00	33.00	
Operating Surplus		491,645.74	417,215.43	74,430.31
		723,902.13	626,920.75	96,981.38

Capital Section:				
Serial Bonds		581,000.00	616,000.00	35,000.00*
Improvement Authorizations: Permanently Funded		39,261.72	18,616.06	20,645.66
Improvement Authorizations: Not Permanently Funded		23,544.34	23,544.34	
Water Capital Outlay		113,027.74	104,498.24	8,529.50
Water Capital Improvement Fund		26,911.81	26,911.81	
Replacement and Extensions Reserves		3,165.73	3,165.73	
Retained Percentage on Contracts		3,986.70	3,223.56	763.14
Deferred Reserve for Amortization		346,520.00	282,200.00	64,320.00
Reserve for Amortization		1,716,314.79	1,681,314.79	35,000.00
		2,853,732.83	2,759,474.53	94,258.30
		\$ 3,577,634.96	\$ 3,386,395.28	\$ 191,239.68

There were bonds and notes authorized but not issued December 31, 1955 of \$58,720.49.

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET
EMERGENCY RELIEF ACCOUNT

	ASSETS	Balance Dec. 31, 1955	Balance Dec. 31, 1954	Increase or Decrease *
20	Cash	\$ 62,414.89	\$ 58,931.27	\$ 3,483.62
	LIABILITIES			
	Reserve to Pay Emergency Relief	\$ 62,414.89	\$ 58,931.27	\$ 3,483.62

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET
SPECIAL POOR ACCOUNT

	ASSETS	Balance Dec. 31, 1955	Balance Dec. 31, 1954	Increase or Decrease *
21	Cash		\$ 394.99	\$ 394.99
	Investments		3,000.00	3,000.00
			\$ 3,394.99	\$ 3,394.99
	LIABILITIES			
	Reserve for Special Poor Account		\$ 3,394.99	\$ 3,394.99

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET
BOND AND INTEREST ACCOUNT

22

ASSETS		Balance Dec. 31, 1955	Balance Dec. 31, 1954	Increase or Decrease *
Cash		\$ 19,467.50	\$ 5,681.25	\$ 13,786.25
LIABILITIES				
Interest Payable		\$ 5,467.50	\$ 1,681.25	\$ 3,786.25
Bonds Payable		14,000.00	4,000.00	10,000.00
		<u>\$ 19,467.50</u>	<u>\$ 5,681.25</u>	<u>\$ 13,786.25</u>

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET
PAYROLL ACCOUNT

23

ASSETS		Balance Dec. 31, 1955	Balance Dec. 31, 1954	Increase or Decrease *
Cash		\$ 28,657.92	\$ 32,516.47	\$ 3,858.55*
LIABILITIES				
Payroll Fund		\$ 28,657.92	\$ 32,516.47	\$ 3,858.55*